

Courts in Class

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA COURT SYSTEM

Tools for Teachers

Here are some resources to help teachers create a classroom activity commemorating the 150th anniversary (*sesquicentennial*, for kids who like big words) of the California court system and learn more about this vital third branch of government.

California Courts Web site, www.courtinfo.ca.gov

Of special interest for teachers on this Web site:

- ◆ Slide show of the buildings shown on the enclosed poster: bring your class to the tour at **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/historic/**
- ◆ Center for Families, Children & the Courts: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/childrenandthecourts/**
- ◆ *What's Happening in Court? An Activity Book for Children Who Are Going to Court in California:* **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/childrenandthecourts/**. This book can be downloaded and photocopied for students. An interactive version is also online!
- ◆ Online reference featuring publications and fact sheets about the courts and issues affecting them: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/**
- ◆ California Jury Web site—a complete resource guide on jury service: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jury/**

- ◆ Frequently asked questions and answers: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/q&a/**
- ◆ Links to your local court: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/**
- ◆ Other state and federal government sites: **www.courtinfo.ca.gov/otherwebsites.htm**

State Bar of California—"Kids and the Law":

www.calbar.org/2pub/3kids/3kidsndx.htm

Superior Court of Los Angeles County—a virtual courthouse tour in several languages and an "Ask the Judge" section: **www.co.la.ca.us/courts/superior-auc/lawday/main.html**

The award-winning educational First Impressions Project, in which the Superior Court of Los Angeles County arranges field trips and classroom visits by attorneys: contact the court's Public Affairs Office at **213-974-6358**

American Bar Association—easy-to-adapt work tools for mock trials and other ideas for students at all grade levels: **www.abanet.org**

Seminar in Famous Trials: **www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/Lindsyft.htm**

Suggested Classroom Activities

Hang the commemorative poster on your classroom wall and find your county's courthouse.

Begin a discussion about the role of courts in our society. Discussion topics include:

- ◆ Students' rights and responsibilities under the law;
- ◆ Juvenile delinquency;
- ◆ Legal consequences of breaking the law; and
- ◆ Career opportunities in the courts.

Arrange a field trip to your courthouse.

Invite a judge to address your class.

Create a mock trial.

Justice for Kids

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice: **www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/getinvolved/4%5F3.htm**

Child Development Policy and Advisory Committee: **www.cdpac.ca.gov**

American Bar Association Center for Children: **www.abanet.org/child/home.html**

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: **www.ncjfcj.unr.edu**

Youth Law Center: **www.youthlaw.org**



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